

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14918 131350Z

47

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 ARA-06 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SWF-01 STR-01

OMB-01 CIEP-01 FMC-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /083 W

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P 131218Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1820

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14918

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHANGE IN GOL'S STAND OF OAS SHIPPING BOYCOTT
ON CUBA FOLLOWING LEBANESE PURCHASE OF CUBAN SUGAR

1. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT GOL APPROACHED CUBA FOR PURCHASE OF BADLY NEEDED SUGAR AND WAS IMMEDIATELY (AND RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY) GRANTED AN ALLOCATION OF 30,000 TONS AT WORLD MARKET PRICES. SHORTLY FOLLOWING THIS, CUBAN AMBASSADOR MADE LOW KEY APPROACH TO FOREIGN OFFICE IN FAVOR OF LIFTING PRESENT BAN ON CALLING OF LEBANESE FLAG SHIPS AT CUBAN PORTS.

2. NO DECISION TAKEN ON CUBAN REQUEST SO FAR BUT PRESSURE APPEARS TO BE BUILDING UP FOR LIFTING BAN, PARTICULARLY SINCE NOVEMBER OAS MEETING WHICH REVEALED SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT RE CONTINUATION OF ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF CUBA.

3. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT GOL MIGHT CONSULT WITH US BEFORE TAKING ANY FINAL ACTION AND WE SHOULD THUS BE PREPARED FOR QUICK RESPONSE. DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS THEREFORE WOULD BE APPRECIATED SOONEST.
HOUGHTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT14918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740362-0813
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgjo.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE CHANGE IN GOL'S STAND OF OAS SHIPPING BOYCOTT ON CUBA FOLLOWING LEBANESE PURCHASE OF CUBAN SUGAR
TAGS: EEWT, CU, US, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005